The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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PUBLIC IS PAYING USUAL TOLL TO PRIVATE-CONTROLLED CREDIT

Financial oracles cautiously hint that "a factor in present condi- ons" are "those" banks that "unwisely loaned money to speculators" ho have inflated prices, capitalized possible earnings and decreased e purchasing power of the dollar.

These hints hit the nerve center of finance, hysterical in war- me. But the truth must out.

During the war a promoter would be assured credit if he said could harness the sunshine and put a meter at the end of every y and make the public pay.

Nothing was too venturesome. As profits increased, more stock as issued that these huge incomes could be "spread" over values at had nothing behind them but the promoter's high hopes. This ocess detracted the public's attention from inordinate gains, as the vidends were only "reasonable" when the amount of watered stock as not considered.

The collapse came with the armistice, when bankers began their deflation" campaign.

This "deflation," or water squeezing, was accomplished by the nks refusing credit and calling in their loans. The promoters and siness men threw other stocks and bonds on the market in a fren- ed scramble for cash.

Thousands of the venturesome were caught and the whole struc- re tumbled, as even high priced stocks and bonds were battered pieces.

The angry promoters and business men are now telling tales out school and some of the bankers murmur, "Too true, too true," hile all hands acknowledge that their former cries of "more pro- uction" and "high wages" are false.

The banks are not injured by the process, but business men are nkrupt, or verging on bankruptcy; millions of wage earners are nemployed, and agriculture is prostrate as a result of this wild- tting that is associated with every war.

The only ones who profit by the orgy are the financiers and eir big business intimates, who secure the country's wealth through e "deflation" process.

The organized workers declare that "credit is inherently social" d that this power over the lives of the people should be taken om the control of private financiers, and become a government nction.

At its historic reconstruction conference in Washington, Decem- er 13, 1919, the wage earners made that declaration and insisted at credit as now administered is "the center of malevolent forces at corrupt the spirit and purpose of industry."

"We urge the organization and use of credit to serve production eeds and not to increase the incomes and holdings of financiers," id labor.

"Anti-Strike Law Is Medieval"—Gompers

Washington, Aug. 13.—Kansas orkers, fighting to secure the re- al of the court of industrial rela- ons law, have been forwarded a essage of encouragement and as- rance of all possible assistance the A. F. of L. through Presi- nt Gompers.

In a statement to President Free- an of the Kansas federation of bor, the A. F. of L. executive ands the Kansas law as "medie- l" and as setting Kansas apart as state that is unable to settle its dustrial problems by democratic ethods."

Kansas workers are urged to give eir best efforts to the campaign st opened in their state. Presi- nt Gompers' statement follows:

"A campaign to bring about the peal of the Kansas court of in- strial relations law has been in- gurated by the Kansas state federation of labor.

"The A. F. of L. has declared its opposition to the principle set up in that law and will give to the Kansas state federation of labor all possible assistance in securing its repeal.

"The Kansas court of industrial relations law is a piece of medieval legislation that has no place in a democracy and that will not work where free people live.

"It is to be hoped that the workers of Kansas will give their best efforts to the campaign which has been opened and that they will be able to remove from the statute books of their state a law which marks Kansas apart as a state that is unable to solve its industrial problems by democratic methods.

"I am convinced that when a majority of the people of the state understand the issue involved the law will be repealed."

PEOPLE MUST BE ALERT.

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 13.—In address at Williams college Vis- unt James Bryce said money can ercise as much illegitimate in- uence in democracies as else- here.

"In some of them," he said, "it n buy the press, perhaps also a ction of legislators. Where the andard of public virtue is high ose who want to get something om a government will seek not to ibe, but will, to use a current ex- ession, 'try to get at the press.' hile also seeking to induce influ- ntial constituents to put pressure their members and members to t pressure on ministers, the ob- ct in view being represented as blic interest, whereas it is really e interest of a small group. When e standard of public virtue is low e group will approach the private cretaries of a minister, or even a inister himself.

"There are upright men valuable a nation in 'high finance' as in her professions. They have their here of action necessary to the orld. But wherever large transac- ons involving governments arise e danger signal for watchfulness ould be raised."

FOOD COSTS GO UP.

Washington, Aug. 13.—An inves- gation by the United States bu- au of labor statistics of retail od costs from June 15 to July 15 14 of the principal cities shows increase in price in all but three these cities. In Butte the in- ease was 6 per cent; in Cleveland d Portland, Me., 5 per cent; in ridgeport, 3 per cent; in Houston, ewark, New York and Washing- n, D. C., 2 per cent; in Birming- am and Charleston, S. C., 1 per nt, and in Cincinnati, two-tenths 1 per cent.

Norfolk and Dallas reported de- eases, 1 and one-tenth of 1 per nt respectively. St. Louis re- rted no change during the month.

LARGE BELGIUM BENEFITS.

Brussels, Belgium, Aug. 13.—Last ar the Belgian Metal Workers' deration paid 5,691,766 francs for nefits, divided as follows: Strike nefits, 2,374,256 francs; unem- oyment insurance, 1,156,353 ancs; sick benefits, 1,734,762 ancs; accident benefits, 426,393 ancs. A franc in normal times is ½ cents. With the exception of e miners, the federation is the rgest trade union in Belgium.

PREDICT SUGAR SURPLUS.

Washington, Aug. 13.—The Fed- al sugar refining company an- unces that more than 2,000,000,000 ns of sugar, or half a year's sup- y for this country, will be car- ed over into next year's stocks re and in Cuba. It is stated that finers will be forced to reduce eir prices or to accumulate ocks.

FUR WORKERS UNITE.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 13.—Fur orkers in this city have organized d affiliated with the trade union ovement.

GOMPERS IN CANADA.

Washington, Aug. 13.—For the purpose of addressing conventions of international unions, conferring with local representatives of organized labor and encouraging renewed efforts towards organization, President Gompers left A. F. of L. headquarters for a Canadian three-weeks' tour. Conventions which President Gompers is scheduled to address are:

International Typographical union, Quebec, Aug. 8.

Brotherhood Railway Carmen of America, Toronto, Aug. 15.

International Photo Engravers' union, Toronto, Aug. 15 or 16.

In addition to these addresses, conferences were planned and arranged for between President Gompers and the officers and delegates to the central bodies in Quebec, Toronto, Montreal, and, if possible, Ottawa. Conferences were also planned between the president and A. F. of L. organizers in the cities visited.

DISSOLVE AGREEMENT.

Washington, Aug. 13.—The agreement between the Bethlehem ship building corporation and affiliates of the A. F. of L. metal trades department has been dissolved. The agreement provided that differences should be adjusted by a committee consisting of representatives of both sides. The corporation insisted on a 10 per cent wage decrease. The unionists refused to concur and withdrew from the joint committee. It was agreed, however, that the mutual relations that have been built up during the life of the joint committee be continued as far as possible and that the system of recognizing and meeting with committees of employes by the management be continued.

WORKERS WILL BUILD.

Brussels, Belgium, Aug. 13.—The Brussels Building Workers' union has established a co-operative building society called "Collective Labor" to engage in the house construction business. The object of the society is to "relieve the building workers from the oppression of private building contractors, eliminate middlemen and their profits in the interest of cheaper housing and to prepare the building workers to assume in the future the management of socialized industry," which is one of the basic demands of the Belgium Federation of Labor.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Madisonville, Ky., Aug. 13.—The annual convention of the Kentucky state federation of labor will be held here, commencing Monday, September 12.

UNION RAISES WAGE.

Leavenworth, Kan., Aug. 13.—Through organization hod carriers have raised wages from 60 cents an hour to 75 cents.

GOVERNMENT BY THUGS BRINGS USUAL RESULT

Williamson, W. Va., Aug. 13.—"There can be no peace in West Virginia until the enforcement of the law is removed from the hands of private detective agencies and from those of deputy sheriffs who are paid, not by the state, but by great corporations, most of them owned by non-residents who have no interest in West Virginia's tomorrow," said S. B. Montgomery, former state labor commissioner, in an address over the bodies of Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers, who were killed at Welch by a coal owner's gun man.

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 13.—Trade unionists are censuring state and county authorities for failing to protect Sid Hatfield, who was murdered at Welch, by C. E. Lively, self-confessed coal owners' spy and thug.

Lively and two other thugs were arrested and the next day were admitted to bail without opposition from the prosecuting attorney.

The absence of state police in Welch at the time is causing trade unionists to ask Governor Morgan ugly questions. They ask the governor why some of his "upholders of law and order" were not at Welch, as they would be to stop any meeting of union miners. They are asking if his spy system failed to function when the life of a friend of the miners is threatened, and if he did not hear of the boasts that Hatfield "would never leave McDowell county alive."

The murderers are at large, and no one seriously believes that the men who are now supposed to enforce law in West Virginia will insist that they be punished.

ARE BATTLESHIPS OBSOLETE?

Washington, Aug. 13.—In view of recent airplane experiments, this country must develop a navy that will protect our present navy, said Senator Borah, in calling attention to the nation's present battleship program.

"We are building 16 battleships, costing from $40,000,000 to $42,000,000 apiece, and in less than 30 minutes, as Gen. Mitchell (of the airplane service) told us he would, they sunk the ship which Von Tirpitz said was an unsinkable ship," continued Senator Borah.

"The airplane development is just beginning. It is just in its youth. Yet we go forward building these great battleships at this enormous expense, knowing that inside of two years the airplane will have rendered this particular type of battleship absolutely worthless as a defensive proposition.

"No man in the senate, as a business man, a member of a corporation, a stockholder, or having anything to say with reference to the expenditure of his money upon that kind of an enterprise would consent to it for a moment. He would say, 'Let us know whether we are putting $42,000,000 into each of these ships that can be sunk in 21 minutes before the aircraft service has even reached what it contends is its first period of success in these matters.'

"If we should discontinue the building of the six battleships we could there save an expenditure of at least $240,000,000.

"I see no other way by which to reduce the expenditures upon the part of congress."

PASS PACKERS' BILL.

Washington, Aug. 13.—By a vote of 48 to 38 the senate accepted the conference report on the bill to regulate the packing industry. Bills passed by both houses were thrown into conference, where the matter was discussed for over a month by representatives of both branches. The senate receded from its position on practically every point. It was charged in the senate that several provisions in the house bill were written by attorneys for the meat packers. One of the most important of these takes from the federal trade commission its power of investigation unless ordered by the secretary of agriculture. In this case the packers have won a distinct gain over the commission, whose investigations have opened the people's eyes on methods by the packers. Another senate proposal would establish uniform systems of accounting. This also was defeated.

The progressive senators voted for the conference report on the theory that it at least accepted the principle of packer regulation and that for a start it is better than nothing.

STORES IN COMPANY BARNS.

Newark, N. J., Aug. 13.—Organized street car men in this city are operating stores in 12 car barns in this vicinity and doing business valued at $100,000 a year. It is stated that savings to these workers range from 12 to 18 per cent over prices in privately-owned stores. The street car men also operate a sick benefit fund which pays $10 weekly for 12 weeks and $5 a week for 12 additional weeks. A voluntary savings fund has been established in each barn and it is now proposed to start a building and loan association.

These unionists say that "whatever is saved in wages is added to wages," that "whatever men do for themselves gives them self-reliance," and that "the advantages which the men obtain through their several instrumentalities of self-help tend to place increasing value upon their jobs."

HOW TIMES CHANGE.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Postmaster General Hays has notified first and second class postmasters to grant leave of absence to clerks to attend the annual convention of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, if the services of the clerks can be spared without impairing the service. Such absence will be charged to the employes' annual leave or vacation.

CLOSE SUNDAY SHOPS.

Elizabeth, N. J., Aug. 13.—The city council has passed an ordinance closing barber shops on Sunday.

WILL WAR PROFITEERS ESCAPE LOOT TAXES?

Washington, Aug. 13.—Will the extreme wealthy in this country escape the tax burden so heavily borne by others?

Will the tax now levied on the extreme wealthy be shifted to others?

And will the war profiteers escape with their loot?

A highly organized propaganda to abolish excess profits and reduce the surtax feature of the income tax law has been conducted. The reduction of the surtax—or the cutting down of the additional income tax on large incomes—will effect but a few thousand people. This group, while small, represents the plutocracy of our country.

Organized labor demands that the excess profits and surtaxes be retained.

It is stated that administration leaders have agreed to abolish the excess profits tax, dating back to the first of the year. This means a loss of half a billion dollars. Another $90,000,000 will be lost through reducing the surtaxes, and $50,000,000 will be lost by repealing the nuisance tax and the tax on luxury clothing.

To offset this loss it is proposed to increase the income tax on all corporations. It is claimed that large corporations will profit by this plan at the cost of small business. Drastic cuts in expenditures are also proposed.

Numerous kites are sent up to sound public opinion on additional taxes that are given the soothing term, "tax readjustments." One kite will tell us that all checks will be taxed, but this "feeler" brings such a storm of protest that the kite falls to the ground.

The next day another kite is sent up to find out how a tax of $10 on automobiles will "take." The plan is to assess every auto a like amount, whether it be flivver or touring car. The roars of protest driven this kite into cold storage. No one seems willing to assume the burden that is intended to be shifted from the backs of the wealthy and war profiteers.

Organized labor is urging Congressman Keller's plan to tax land values on the millions of acres of land held out of use by large corporations and land-owning interests. This plan borders on treason to the patriots who want excess profits abolished and their income tax diluted. They don't want their land holdings taxed no more than their war loot.

In addition the railroads want $500,000,000 that the government owes them while they insist that the millions they owe the government be overlooked for a few years. The railroads want the government to O. K. bonds for this amount. The shipping board would be thankful for a couple of hundred millions, while other millions are being called for by the army, navy and other defensive processes.

About the only thing that seems certain is that the "little fellow" will be lucky if he escapes as he is.

The situation is distracting some congressmen, who have in mind next year's elections. They want to favor the profiteers and they fear the wrath of the vast majority who demand that the war loot be taxed. The situation may result in the following ad appearing in the daily press:

"Wanted—One competent navigator who can chart a safe political route on the troublesome taxation sea. Wages no object if party makes good. Apply at national capitol."

"Framed" Convention Opposed by Labor

Philadelphia, Aug. 13.—Organized labor in this state is opposing the proposed constitutional convention to be voted on in the primary election, September 20.

The alert unionists declare the convention is a "frame up," and call on all wage earners to register and then vote "No" against the plan.

In a statement issued by the state federation of labor these reasons are given for opposing the convention:

"First. Because what we want is a convention of liberal-minded delegates, elected on a non-partisan principle, not a convention composed of machine politicians who will do the bidding of the anti-union corporations—steel and railroad trusts.

"Second. Authority is given the governor to appoint 25 of the 133 delegates who are to compose the convention. This means a start of 25 for the corporations. Only 37 more is needed to give them a majority.

"Third. Three delegates are to be elected from each congressional district, some of which include several counties. This was done to exclude labor from representation in the convention.

"Fourth. It is expected by the political 'big-wigs' to have such a convention as will accept the report of the commission, which sat for several months to suggest the changes to be made. This report contains not a single suggested amendment that can be considered progressive—no referendum provision, which is badly needed to protect our labor laws and prevent such legislation as was attempted at the last session and nothing to limit judges' injunctions in labor disputes.

"Fifth. If this shrewdly contrived convention goes through, it will kill off all hope of a progressively inclined convention for the next 50 years."

ENGLISH CONFAB FAILS.

London, England, Aug. 13.—The big industrial conference, called by the government more than two years ago, seems to have failed, and representatives of the employers and workers on the joint committee of the national industrial council are resigning.

The committee was formed in February, 1919, and two months after issued a report that was unanimously approved by the national industrial council and accepted in principle by the government. Nothing has happened since that time and one paper states that "it is not easy for a body of men to keep their self respect under such circumstances."

When this movement was launched it was agreed that the national industrial council would consider and advise the government on industrial questions. The government declared its willingness to proceed at once with the legislative and other steps necessary to give effect to the reports, but a coldness on the part of government officials has appeared and nothing has been done with the recommendations.

With the members of the board resigning it is only a question of a short time until the whole structure is in ruins.

CAN'T TAX CO-OP. PROFITS.

London, England, Aug. 13.—British workers have won a victory over the government's proposal to treat co-operative societies as corporations and make their surplus subject to the corporations profits tax. The government held that profits are profits, whether found in the treasury of co-operative societies or private companies organized for private profits. The workers held that profits of the co-operative societies are not profits in the ordinary sense—that profits of the private trader are made out of the consumers for the benefit of themselves, while the profits of the co-operatives are the savings of the consumers made by trading with themselves. The house of commons accepted the workers' viewpoint.

The government claimed that the profits of the co-ops, amount to £80,000,000 a year and the proposed tax would take but £150,000. The workers replied that £150,000 was £150,000 too much.

AID SUFFERING RUSSIANS.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Expressing confidence that American labor will join in the movement to bring relief to the suffering people of Russia, President Gompers has cabled to Gustav Ador, of the international committee of the Red Cross, at Geneva, Switzerland, as follows:

"International movement to bring relief to the suffering people of Russia is worthy of fullest support. Am confident American labor will do its full share in this humanitarian work."

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 13.—Ice wagon drivers have secured a new agreement which raises wages $2.50 a week.

LUMBER HIGH; WAGES LOW.

Seattle, Aug. 13.—Lumber owners can do much to increase their prices and labor must take more reduction, says President Vinnedge, of the West Coast Lumbermen's association.

In the West Coast Lumberman, Mr. Vinnedge writes that "there is much that we can do in securing a higher average sales price for our lumber. This we are endeavoring to bring about through the west coast forest products bureau, which is the market extension activity of the northwest lumber industry.

"Labor has taken a considerable reduction and doubtless must take more."

In line with this wage reduction policy the lumber barons have attempted to foist a company "union," known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, on workers in the timber industry. All through the northwest, wherever this company "union" functions, it has been the vehicle by which these employers reduced wages and lengthened hours, while charging the International Union of Timber Workers with being responsible for the high price of lumber.

MILITARISTS ACTIVE.

Paris, Aug. 13.—Organized labor is unanimous against the bill prohibiting anti-militarist propaganda now before the French parliament. The bill is understood to be the child of the general staff of the French army. It prohibits all anti-militarist propaganda, "irrespective of the form or means" which is likely to induce regular or reserve naval and military "ratings" to violate discipline or disobey orders. The net set by the general staff is wide. The word "rating" is defined to include all able-bodied men, from the youngest recruit to the oldest reservist.

Anti-militarist propaganda is basic among the European trade unions. At its last congress the International Transport Workers' Federation appropriated a considerable sum for the fight against militarism.

DEMAND SECRET BALLOT.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—The United States railroad labor board has ordered that balloting be secret when employes of the Pennsylvania railroad vote for representatives who will discuss working conditions with the company officials.

The board first ordered that the employe write his name on the ballot, but this has been withdrawn and the board calls for a secret ballot.

DIDN'T SPLIT WORKERS.

Newark, N. J., Aug. 12.—Managers of burlesque theaters in this city have failed to split theatrical employes by offering a contract to musicians. The offer was rejected. The managers are attempting to install the anti-union shop. The stage employes, electricians, musicians and other employes have formed an alliance and will stand together.

STRIKE INSURANCE CO. USES STRIKEBREAKERS

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 13.—The charge by trade unionists that insurance against strikes is the latest form of strikebreaking has been sustained in this city.

Recently W. E. Bush, president of Typographical union, stated that the employing printers' organization, which is opposing the 44-hour week, was employing spies and professional strikebreakers through a detective agency.

F. S. Crane, president of Crane & company, and a member of the employers' organization, proves to be a far-sighted business man, and produces an alibi. In a letter to President Bush, the employer states that his strike insurance company asked for the number of employes who had gone on strike. Shortly afterward a detective agency shipped a man to the Crane concern with a letter of introduction. The strikebreaker told the employer that the agency was furnishing men for the insurance company.

"We have not at any time, nor do we intend at any time, to hire any spies or professional strikebreakers, if they are known to us as such," said Mr. Crane, who adds that the strikebreaker left before he could be discharged.

In accepting the word of the employer, President Bush reminds him that the charge against the employers' association still stands.

Aliens Not Entitled to Voice In Changing Government Form

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 13.—In upholding the Connecticut anti-sedition law, the supreme court of errors has ruled that aliens have no rights under the state bill of rights, in any attempts to change the form of government.

In defending two men charged with circulating scurrilous literature attacking the government, attorneys claimed that the accused were within the bill of rights, which declares that all political power "is inherent in the people and all free governments are founded on their authority."

The court held that the contention was inapplicable, as the defendants are aliens.

"Aliens," the court said, "have no constitutional rights to share in the privileges and responsibility of attempting to change our laws or forms of government, hence they have no right, under cover of being engaged in good faith to accomplish those ends, to engage in scurrilous or anarchistic propaganda which has been declared by the general assembly to be dangerous to the public welfare."

NON-UNIONISM DESTROYS.

Seattle, Aug. 13.—How non-unionism, with its cut-throat competition, destroys wage workers' conditions and uproots stability in business is shown in the mining industry of this state.

Since last March these coal mines have been closed. The mine owners say they can not compete with the unorganized coal from Vancouver Island and Utah and with fuel oil from California. The miners refuse to be dragged down to the level of the unorganized and the coal owners have posted eviction notices on their company-owned houses. The miners reply that if their families are to be thrown into the street, they will withdraw the pump men and other maintenance men necessary for the protection of the mines. The coal owners declare they will henceforth operate on the anti-union basis, although they say they will employ union men—just enough to serve as an alibi that they "do not discriminate," and not enough to challenge the coal owners' absolute control of working conditions in and around the mines.

Trade unionists agree that the situation is dangerous and that a battle involving the life of the Mine Workers' union is imminent.

TENANTS ORGANIZE.

New Orleans, Aug. 13.—A mass meeting called by trade unionists resulted in the formation of a tenants' rights association. The call for the meeting stated that it is necessary to protest against the forces of oppression and "do-nothingism" which now prevails and which seeks to continue the conditions and "make no change," so that "250,000 of our men, women and children may be flayed to the bone next year in an unhindered orgy of rent greed, with wholesale evictions on a scale never before seen in the south."

The state legislature meets the first week in September and the law makers will be urged to take action against present conditions. Wages have been reduced in the building industry because of a propaganda that these rates made building construction impossible. The wages were cut, but the expected construction has not developed. Those who insisted on wage reductions are maintaining high prices for building material.

LABOR "SWEATED" BY CITY.

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 13.—The city recently approved a bond issue of $250,000 for park purposes, and now the park board has taken advantage of industrial conditions to "sweat" the workers as would the meanest exploiter. Wages have been cut to 30 cents an hour and hours are increased to nine a day. Private employers are asking, "If the city can do this, why not we?"

HIGH TAXES ANNOY.

Philadelphia, Aug. 13.—Income and excess profits taxes are extremely annoying to textile manufacturers in this city, who object to government agents questioning them on their returns. The Textile Manufacturers' association has written to President Harding urging that these investigations be stopped.

COOPERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—The strike of Coopers' union No. 15 against the Illinois cooperage company has ended.

COOLIE PLOT WOULD ANNUL EVERY ANTI-PEONAGE LAW

Labor Wages Single-Handed Fight Against Chinified America

Washington, Aug. 13.—Congressman Cable, member of the house committee on immigration, shows that if the proposed coolie resolution is approved by congress it will annul all federal acts to prevent slavery, peonage, contract labor and Oriental immigration.

Sentiment in congress is swinging away from the coolie bill, officially known as H. J. Res. 171, introduced by the territorial delegate from Hawaii.

While the danger is by no means removed, A. F. of L. representatives believe that a strong sentiment has been built up against the measure and that Hawaiian sugar planters are far from certain now of the desired hordes of Chinese coolies to work on the plantations as bondmen.

The entire fight against the proposition has been waged by organized labor. No other organization has protested against the reintroduction of slavery on American soil.

Under the terms of the joint resolution it would be possible, upon proclamation by the president that an emergency exists, to import approximately 50,000 Chinese coolies, in bond, into Hawaii.

During the testimony of President Gompers before the house immigration committee it was developed that about 25 years ago, when the question of the annexation of Hawaii was under consideration, a conference was held at a hotel in this city between members of congress, the sugar interests of the United States and representatives of Hawaii.

At that time Claud Spreckles informed the Hawaiians that if the islands were permitted to come into the United States the people of the islands would have to accept the labor laws of the United States as well as the tariff laws. They would have to swallow the bitter with the sweet and that they must take their chance with the citizens of the United States. The Hawaiians said that they knew they would have to do that and would accept the conditions.

President Gompers was on the stand before the house immigration committee continuously for a day and a half, presenting to the committee the objections of organized labor and the objections of American citizenship to the coolie resolution.

Inch by inch the A. F. of L. executive battered down every excuse for the importation of coolie labor. He showed that there was no necessity for coolie labor and that under the terms of the United States constitution there could be no such condition of bondage as that which would result from adoption of H. J. Res. 171, the coolie resolution.

President Gompers concluded his testimony with an emphatic declaration against the resolution, based upon the principles involved, during which he said:

"I call your attention to the fact that it is not wise to take the heart and the spirit out of America's workers. It is not wise to lead them into a position of fear, anguish and anger where no loyal support comes, because no voluntary, loyal support comes to a government that uses oppression and suppression.

"We appeal to you, as we have the right as men and as citizens, to maintain the American policy of Chinese exclusion by law and to make by law the exclusion of the Japanese and all other orientals. In my opinion the people of the republic of the United States have only just entered upon the real mission of our republic, to be the leader in industrial progress, in democratic government and humanitarian ideals. Do not let us depart from that policy, sound, good and progressive, but, rather, strengthen it."

Congressman John L. Cable, of Ohio, member of the committee on immigration, compiled the laws that would be destroyed if the coolie resolution is adopted, including the constitutional provision which prohibits involuntary servitude except as punishment for crime.

The Ohio lawmaker showed that in specific instances United States statute law designed to prevent peonage, to restrict Oriental immigration, to eradicate slavery, to prohibit contract labor, to exclude Chinese from Hawaii, and in general to safeguard the rights and freedom of men from the imposition of involuntary servitude, would be nullified by the proposed coolie resolution.

This tabulation sustained statements made by President Gompers and corroborated his declarations on the specific point that to enact the proposed resolution would reverse the policy which the American government has maintained during 40 years.

The house committee on immigration has not announced its intention regarding future hearings, but it is understood that hearings are planned by the senate committee on immigration.

BACK-TO-LAND IS URGED.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Representatives of the A. F. of L. are urging congress to pass national reclamation legislation that will open the way to the development of arid and waste lands in every section of the country and at the same time relieve the unemployed through establishment on the land of those now unable to secure land or secure work.

At least half a dozen bills, each containing admirable provisions, are before congress. The A. F. of L. representatives believe there is sufficient favorable sentiment to secure passage of a single comprehensive measure, providing sufficient interest is shown by the constituents of members of congress. The trade unionists are conferring daily with members of congress in the effort to combine the constructive features of the various measures, developing thereby a thorough American reclamation program, national in scope.

One of the principle immediate benefits of such a program, as seen by the labor representatives, is that it would open the way to former service men to secure homes and to gain a permanent status in American life, and that it would do the same for unemployed industrial workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Unemployment increased another 1.1 per cent in July in the larger industrial plants throughout the country, ac-[illegible] the United States employment service. This makes a total decrease in employment for the past six months of 7.3 per cent. The figures are based on returns from 1,428 firms in 65 cities, employing normally 500 or more persons each.

"The darker side of the picture," says the report, "has to do with metals and metal products, from mining to manufacturing. The entire process, in all its ramifications, has felt the full force of the present industrial depression. There is an almost unprecedented lack of orders."

TRADE UNIONS ENJOINED.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 13.—Anti-unionists in this city have carried their fight against organized labor to the courts and have secured an injunction against 11 local unions engaged in construction building, and nearly 100 individuals. The 59 plaintiffs include the principal building contractors in this city.

The scope of the injunction is indicated by this first provision of the court's order:

"From in any manner interfering with plaintiff's employes now in the employ of said plaintiffs, or with any one who may hereafter work with them."

WHISPERS OF GUILT.

Seattle, Aug. 13.—Edwin Selvin, the anti-union editor of Business Chronicle has almost forgotten his former claims that "high" wages are responsible for present conditions. In urging on Oregon hop growers the necessity for cutting prices, Selvin says:

"The days are over for artificially fixing prices, either by edict or by creating apparent shortages."

THREE-MONTHS' STRIKE ENDS.

Peoria, Ill., Aug. 13.—The three-months' strike of organized sheet metal workers has ended. The union shop is agreed to by employers and rates will be 87½ cents an hour, with a 44-hour week.

COMPANY "UNION" OPPOSED.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—The United States railroad labor board has again opposed the Pennsylvania railroad's company "union," this time as the result of a protest by the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks. The dispute started over methods by which the railroad and the union would negotiate working rules, and the railroad launched its company "union."

"The evidence shows," said the labor board, "that a large majority of said employes either did not participate in the election held by the carrier or their votes were thrown out. The representatives elected by a minority of the employes have since been negotiating new agreements for rules and working conditions to apply to all employes of that class, including the majority who did not vote, or those whose votes were thrown out."

The board orders another election to be participated in by all employes, regardless of affiliation, to select representatives to negotiate working rules.

The labor board also rules that the railroad company was wrong in refusing to allow the name of any organization to go on the ballot.

"There is nothing in the transportation act to justify this course," said the board. "Said statute recognizes the existence of organizations of railway employes, and the right of the men to belong to such organizations is no longer seriously questioned in any quarter."

MINE WORKERS TO MEET.

Indianapolis, Aug. 13.—The biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America will be held in this city beginning Tuesday September 20.

The convention call refers to the international constitution which provides that delegates shall attend at least one-half of the meetings of their local unions for six months just prior to the election of delegates.

The international organization pays the transportation of delegates to and from the convention city.

The miners are determined to resist wage cuts favored by coal owners. The latter is having poor success explaining why coal costs the public $14 and $15 a ton when the miner is paid less than one-tenth of this amount for risking his life to dig this coal.

INVITED TO ITALY.

Washington, Aug. 13.—President Gompers has been invited to become a member of and attend the international sociological congress to be held this year in Turin, Italy, beginning October 9. The invitation was extended by Prof. Francesco Cosentini, director of the institute of sociology of the university of Turin.

The congress is to be "for the broadcast discussion of problems which impress themselves upon the minds of all those desire a better future for humanity."

UNIONS GET PREFERENCE.

Greybull, Wyo., Aug. 13.—Public officials at this place recognize the moral worth of trade unionism and have passed a city ordinance which provides that only union labor shall be employed on city contracts.

TEAMSTERS HOLD LINE.

Cincinnati, Aug. 13.—A threatened strike of teamsters in this city was averted by conciliation. The workers are guaranteed former wage scales, which would be impossible if they were unorganized.